

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

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SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3457

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-80

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, PORT

SUBJECT: GENERAL COSTA GOMES' INTERVENTION AT DPC MINISTERIAL
MEETING, JUNE 14

OTTAWA PASS TO SECSTATE PARTY AT NATOMIN

FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL MISSION TRANSLATION (FROM FRENCH) OF
GENERAL COSTA GOMES' INTERVENTION AT DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING, JUNE
14, ON PORTUGUESE CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATO DEFENSES (REPORTED
PARA 7, USNATO 3427).

QUOTE

STATEMENT BY GENERAL COSTA GOMEZ, CHIEF OF STAFF, ARMED FORCES
OF PORTUGAL ON THE OCCASION OF THE DPC MEETING JUNE 1974

MR. CHAIRMAN GENTLEMEN,

AS YOU KNOW, A CHANGE OF POLITICAL REGIME TOOK PLACE IN PORTUGAL
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ON 25 APRIL 1974.

THIS CHANGE, HIGHLIGHTED BY THE PRIMORDIAL GOAL OF RE-
ESTABLISHING THE FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS OF THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE,

WAS ESSENTIALLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING DEMOCRACY
IN ALL THE PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES.

THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS CONCERNING PORTUGUESE TERRITORY OVERSEAS,
WHERE A WAR IS RAGING ON THREE THEATERS OF OPERATIONS AND WHICH
THREATENED TO BECOME PERMANENT, HAVE NATURALLY PRECIPITATED
A POSITION TO BE TAKEN BY THE ARMED FORCES.

THE NEW POLITICAL SYSTEM ESTABLISHED IN PORTUGAL,--AND I
REJOICE TO BE ABLE TO PROCLAIM THIS IN THIS FORUM,--RESPECTS
FULLY THE COMMITMENTS TO NATO.

WE RECOGNIZE THAT, FOR SOME TIME ALREADY, PORTUGAL'S CONTRIBUTION
TO NATO HAS NOT ATTAINED THE DESIRED LEVEL. THIS LIMITATION WAS
THE RESULT OF MILITARY REQUIREMENTS OVERSEAS.

WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THIS CONTRIBUTION WILL BE IMPROVED
IN VIEW OF ATTAINING THE LEVELS DESIRED BY NATO FORCE PLANNING
AS SOON AS THE MILITARY OPERATIONS OVERSEAS ARE TERMINATED.

IN A SHORT TIME, THE SOLUTION OF THE DOMINATING INTERNAL PROBLEMS
WILL CERTAINLY HAVE PRIORITY AND A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TIME WILL BE
NECESSARY BEFORE OUR PRESENCE IN NATO BECOMES MORE EFFECTIVE AND
IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHAT CAN BE EXPECTED FROM PORTUGAL.

IN ORDER TO REACH THIS GOAL, WE ARE COUNTING ON THE UNDERSTANDING,
THE FRIENDSHIP AND THE COLLABORATION OF ALL THE COUNTRIES IN THE
NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.

THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN. END QUOTE.
GOODBY

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